

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 AF-04 SP-02 L-01 INR-05

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 294

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 2302

LIMDIS

KINSHASA OR NAIROBI FOR UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, USEGJC, OVIP (ROBINSON, CHARLES W.)

SUBJECT: PASSING THE HAT FOR EGYPT

REF: CAIRO 2272

1. AID/REP CONTACTED DR. SHAFEI FIRST THING THIS MORNING. SHAFEI ADVISED THAT A) THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAD NOT REPEAT NOT BEEN IN TOUCH WITH HIM RE THE PROPOSED PRESENTATION, AND B) HE COULD NOT AGREE TO SUCH A MEETING WITHOUT THE EXPLICIT APPROVAL OF THE PRIME MINISTER. AID/REP ASKED HOW, ASSUMING PM APPROVAL, DR. SHAFEI WOULD PREFER TO HANDLE ARRANGMEMENTS FOR THE SESSION, INVITATIONS, LOCATION, ETC. SHAFEI ANSWERED THAT INVITATIONS SHOULD COME FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTER.

2. I THEN PASSED DR. SHAFEI'S RESPONSE ON TO OSSAMMA EL BAZ IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. EL BAS INDICATED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD APPROVED THE IDEA AND THAT DR. SHAFEI WOULD BE SO ADVISED. THIS WAS AROUND 1030 HOURS THIS MORNING.

3. AT 1330 HOURS AID/REP AGAIN TALKED WITH DR. SHAFEI WHO ADVISED THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN CONTACTED BY PRIMIN OR FONMIN.

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SHAFEI TOOK THE POSITION THAT, SINCE BOTH PRIMIN AND FONMIN

HAD LEFT EARLIER IN AM FOR SAUDIA ARABIA, NOTHING FURTHER
COULD BE DONE UNTIL PM RETURNED AFTER TWO DAYS. AID/REP POINTED OUT
THAT THIS LEFT VERY LITTLE TIME TO PREPARE FOR THE MEETING, ISSUE
INVITATIONS, ETC. SHAFEI WAS, HOWEVER, ADAMANT THAT WE COULD
ONLY WAIT.

4. IN VIEW DR. SHAFEI'S COOLNESS TOWARDS PROPOSED SESSION AND
ABSENCE OF PM AND FOREIGN MINISTER, THERE IS LITTLE OR NO
CHANCE FOR DECISIVE ACTION DURING NEXT TWO DAYS. SHOULD PM
RETURN MONDAY EVENING, DECISION MIGHT BE REACHED TUESDAY.
WHILE INVITATIONS COULD BE ISSUED AND DELIVERED THAT DAY FOR
MEETING ON FRIDAY, AMBASSADORS WOULD HAVE ONLY VERY SHORT TIME
TO CABLE HOME AND RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS BACK. IN ABSENCE
INSTRUCTIONS, MOST WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY STAY AWAY. THUS, RISK
OF HAVING MINIMAL OR NO ATTENDANCE GROWS DAILY.

5. WILL KEEP ADVISED.
EILTS

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